

Alliance [tyrib; *berit*; Ntaxf *khʾtan*]

When Judah makes alliances with Ephraim or Aram (1 Kings 15:19; 2 Chron 16:3), the word is *tyrib*; *berit*, the word translated “covenant” in other contexts. Similarly the “allies” of Abraham (Gen 14:13) are more literally the “masters of Abraham’s *tyrib*; *berit*” and in Obad 7 Edom’s “allies” are the “men of your *tyrib*; *berit*”.

NRSV uses “covenant,” “treaty,” and “compact” as well as “alliance” to refer to such political alliances. In Gen 21:22-34 Abraham and Abimelech make a *tyrib*; *berit* following on conflict over the use of a well, an agreement to live at peace with each other and not be in conflict over this issue (a key issue in wilderness areas); both parties seem to have equal standing in making the agreement. In Joshua 9, the Gibeonites trick Israel into making a “treaty” with them. (for other such treaties, equal or hierarchical, cf. 1 Sam 11:1-2; 1 Kings 5:12; 20:34; Isa 33:8; Hos 12:1). David and Abner make an alliance on the basis of which Abner will support David’s bid for the throne and get Ephraim in general to come into alliance with him (2 Sam 3:12-13, 21; 5:3; in 1 Chron 11:3 the alliance-makers are implicitly Israel as a whole). The priest Jehoiada makes a compact with the palace and temple guards to crown the young Joash on the throne in place of his Baal-inclined mother Athaliah (2 Kings 11:4; 2 Chron 23:1). The “empty oaths” with which people “make covenants” in Hosea 10:4 may refer to the agreements between people and king that the people fail to observe in that they keep assassinating their king. In Ps 83:5 various peoples make a covenant to attack Israel, though the psalm says they are allying “against you [Yahweh].” Ephraim makes a “treaty” with Assyria (Hos 12:1). Daniel 9:27 refers to a *tyrib*; *berit* that constitutes an alliance between reformist Jews and Greeks in the context of the Antiochene crisis. The “covenant of kinship” that Tyre failed to observe when it “delivered whole communities over to Edom” (Amos 1:9) likely refers to an alliance that put Tyre in kinship-type relationship with people whom it then betrayed by transporting them as slaves; treaty partners can refer to each other as brothers (cf. 1 Kings 20:31-34).

Other occurrences of “alliance” represent the verbs *Psa*f *asap* “gather together” (Judg 3:13) or *Ntaxf khʾtan* hitpael “make a marriage alliance” (1 Kings 3:1; 2 Chron 18:1) or *חָבַר khabar* hitpael “join together” (Dan 11:6, 23) or the noun *hkfs@ma massekah* “weaving” (?) (Isa 30:1).

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